

At **Ferris State University** Big Rapids, MI

Take Charge of Your Journey!

SAVE THE DATES



2013 Michigan Teen Conference • Wed-Thurs • June 19-20

**Help promote this event with foster youth
and be pro-active: secure funding now!**

**Potential sources of funding: YIT. MYOI. Private fund raising.
Use registration form to calculate cost and pre-plan for your funding request!**

*What attendees have said
about the Teen Conference:*

*"The keynote speaker was inspirational...
amazing...very spiritual."*

*What I liked best about
the Teen Conference:*

- Talking to people who want to help us
- Meeting other kids
- Variety of speakers
- Useful information
- Everything
- Activities

This special conference

is for **youth** ages 14-21
preparing to exit foster care,
their **caregivers**, and
the **professionals**
who work with them

**Wednesday – Thursday
June 19-20, 2013
at**

Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI

SPONSORS: Lutheran Social Services of MI • MI Department of Human Services—Youth In Transition • MI Federation for Children & Families

2013 Michigan Teen Conference

Take Charge of Your Journey!

Do you know a youth in **Foster Care or Independent Living** who needs to learn about money management, employment, educational opportunities, healthy relationships, or housing? If you do, then help them pre-register for the **2013 Michigan Teen Conference**.

Youth must be ages 14 to 21 and in Foster Care or Independent Living. If attendees are under the age of 18, a chaperone **MUST** attend the conference with them and accompany them at all times. Caretakers of the youth and professionals who work with teens are also invited. Attendees will sharpen their understanding of what is available and required for foster youth to make the challenging transition to adult life.



Preliminary Schedule (subject to updates)

Tuesday, June 18	5:00 – 6:30 PM	Dinner available
	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Early check-in
	6:00 – 10:00 PM	Recreation/entertainment options
Wednesday, June 19	7:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
	9:00 – 10:30 AM	Registration
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Opening remarks & keynote
	12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Workshop A
	2:00 – 2:15 PM	Break
	2:15 – 3:15 PM	Workshop B
	3:45 – 4:45 PM	Ferris State U. campus tour
	5:00 – 6:30 PM	Dinner
Thursday, June 20	6:00 – 11:00 PM	Recreation/entertainment options
	7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
	9:15 – 10:30 AM	General session
	10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
	10:45 – 11:45 AM	Workshop C
	12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Walk through Life
	3:00 – 4:00 PM	Closing & gift giveaway

The complete program for this event will be issued in early April.

Based on experience, you know it will be outstanding!

In other words... it is not too early to register!

We urge you to discuss today which youth, caregivers, and caseworkers would benefit from the 2013 Michigan Teen Conference ... *then register early!*

The 2013 Michigan Teen Conference program will include **keynote presentations** and **workshops** addressing topics such as:

- Post-secondary education options, including vocational skills training
- College life (youth panel)
- Communication skills
- Funding resources
- Employment
- Rental housing
- Healthy relationships
- How to live with mental illness
- Internet safety
- Nutrition
- Financial sense
- Leadership
- Organizing your life
- Rights and responsibilities, including self advocacy and empowerment
- Spirituality
- Social media
- Teens and the law

In addition, a special **Walk through Life** will feature numerous life stations to visit and resources to grab at this fun, interactive two-hour session. It is a chance for youth to put into practice many of the life skills they acquired during the conference. Stations will include:

- Education
- Employment
- Finances
- Housing
- Identification
- Transportation

See next page for Frequently Asked Questions!

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a chaperone? *All youth under the age of 18 must have a chaperone at all times, including overnight.*

A minimum of one adult chaperone to three youth is required throughout the conference. Dorm rooms sleep up to four individuals; therefore, same-sex chaperones will be needed. Chaperones must be identified on the registration form.

What is a chaperone responsible for? One chaperone is required for up to three youth under age 18 attending the conference, and *a signed agreement for each chaperone attending must be submitted with the registration.* The agreement form is provided with this brochure and explains the chaperone's responsibilities throughout the conference. One chaperone per form; copy as needed.

Do I need to sign a consent form? Yes, *a signed consent form for each youth attending must be submitted with the registration.* The consent form is provided with this brochure; one youth per form; copy as needed.

How much does it cost to register? The registration fee is \$110 for each registrant and includes: all workshop materials; dinner and evening activities on Tuesday; lunch, dinner and evening activities on Wednesday; and breakfast and lunch on Thursday. Fees must be paid prior to attending the conference. Overnight room charges are in addition to the registration fee (see separate question). Registrations submitted after May 30, 2013, require an additional \$25 per person.

Are there funding sources that can help pay for my registration? Very likely! Here are some options that your worker may be able to access:

- ▶ County **Youth In Transition (YIT)** funds CAN be used to pay for youth to attend the conference. Additionally, YIT funds can be used for *chaperones' travel costs only—mileage, meals (\$65 of the \$110 fee is for meals) and overnight room.* YIT funds CANNOT be used for chaperones' cost of registration for the conference (\$45 of the \$110 fee). YIT funds can be accessed through the local DHS foster care worker.
- ▶ This conference is an **Approved Asset Training**, thus, county **Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI)** funding CAN be used to pay for youth to attend the conference. If your county has MYOI, consult your MYOI Coordinator for funds.
- ▶ If youth are not eligible for YIT or MYOI funding, workers are encouraged to assist youth in raising funds to cover their cost of attending.



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Where do I sleep? Overnight accommodations will be available in on-campus dorm rooms for youth and their chaperones. Bring an alarm clock, fan (no air conditioning!), and toiletries. Linens and towels are provided. Alternatively, off-site hotel locations are available nearby at participants' own expense (see inset for suggestions). See Registration Form for dorm room costs.

What if I have to cancel my registration?

All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Written cancellations received and verified on or before June 1, 2013, will be refunded, less a \$25 fee. No refunds will be issued after June 1, 2013. If you are unable to attend, please notify LSSM in Grand Rapids—(616) 356-1934 or (800) 886-5776—that you will send someone in your place.

Am I liable for any damages I may cause?

By registering to attend the conference, you are agreeing to be financially responsible for any damages incurred by yourself to any portion of the facilities in use by the conference. You are also agreeing to be responsible for abiding by FSU campus rules and local laws for the duration of the conference.

Area hotels If you prefer overnight accommodations in a nearby hotel, here are two options with special room rates. Reservations and payment must be made directly with the hotel; tell them you are with the 2013 Michigan Teen Conference. Reserve your room early to assure space is available (tax is additional).

Quality Inn, 1705 S. State Street, Big Rapids, MI
(231) 592-5150
\$60 per night (two beds).
A block of rooms will be held until May 31.

Holiday Inn, 1005 Perry Street, Big Rapids, MI
(231) 796-4400
\$89 per night (two beds).
A block of rooms will be held until May 31.

IMPORTANT: Youth and chaperones are expected to stay together in the same overnight location.

Conference Registration Form

2013 Michigan Teen Conference
**Take Charge of
Your Journey!**

TO REGISTER, mail completed form to LSSM, 207 E. Fulton, 4th Flr, Grand Rapids MI 49503 or fax the completed form to (616) 356-5779.

Registrations and full payment must be received by LSSM by May 30, 2013.

If you have questions, contact Laura Mitchell at LSSM lmitch@LSSM.org or **(800) 886-5776**.

Registration should be completed by Agency or DHS Staff or Caregiver.

Please type or print clearly.

Contact person			
Name:			
DHS office or private agency:			
Agency address:			
City/state/zip code:			
Telephone:		Fax number:	
E-mail address for contact person:			
One chaperone is required for every three youth.			
Chaperone A signed Chaperone Agreement is required; see separate form.			
Name:			Fee
Role/title:			\$110
Cell phone #:	Email:		
Youth attending A signed Consent form is required for each youth; see separate form.			
Youth's name	Age (at time of conference)	Circle gender	Circle fee
		M F	\$110
		M F	\$110
		M F	\$110
Other adults/staff attending			
Name	Role/title	Circle fee	
		\$110	
		\$110	
		\$110	
		\$110	
On-campus dorm rooms • First come, first serve*			
Length of stay	Rate per person	# of people	Amount
Two nights (Tues. and Wed., June 18 & 19)	\$45		\$
One night (Wed., June 19)	\$25		\$
Total amount payable to "Lutheran Social Services of Michigan" by May 30, 2013: \$			
LSSM Federal ID#: 38-1360553			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed for total amount due. <input type="checkbox"/> Check will be mailed for total amount due.			After May 30, ADD \$25 to each \$110 registration; # registrants _____ x \$25 = \$
			After May 30, NEW TOTAL DUE = \$

A signed Consent for each youth attending and a signed Chaperone Agreement must be submitted with registration.
The forms are provided with this brochure; one person per form; copy as needed.

Registration fee includes all workshop materials; dinner and evening activities on Tuesday; lunch, dinner and evening activities on Wednesday; and breakfast and lunch on Thursday. Fees must be paid prior to attending the conference.

County Youth In Transition funds CAN be used to pay for the youth to attend the conference. Additionally, YIT funds can be used for chaperones' travel costs only—mileage, meals (\$65 of the \$110 fee is for meals) and overnight room. YIT funds CANNOT be used for chaperones' cost of registration for the conference (\$45 of the \$110 fee). YIT funds can be accessed through the local DHS foster care worker. If your county has MYOI, consult your MYOI Coordinator for funds.

Cancellation policy: All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Written cancellations received and verified on or before June 1, 2013, will be refunded, less a \$25 fee. No refunds will be issued after June 1, 2013. If you are unable to attend, please notify LSSM in Grand Rapids—(616) 356-1934 or (800) 886-5776—that you will send someone in your place.

Liability policy: By registering to attend the conference, you are agreeing to be financially responsible for any damages incurred by yourself to any portion of the facilities in use by the conference. You are also agreeing to be responsible for abiding by FSU campus rules and local laws for the duration of the conference.

*Alternatively, overnight accommodations can be made at a nearby hotel (see previous page).



2013 Michigan Teen Conference

Take Charge of Your Journey!

Conference dates: **Wednesday-Thursday, June 19 and 20, 2013**

Location: **Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI**

Chaperone Agreement

As a volunteer chaperone, accompanying as many as three youth to and throughout this conference, I attest to the fact that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the following procedures and protocols:

- ▶ I understand that this signed agreement must accompany the registration form.
- ▶ I will officially “check in” at the Chaperone Station upon arrival at the Registration area of the conference.
- ▶ As a chaperone, my primary role is to provide supervision of my assigned youth and to help these youth learn and enjoy themselves at the conference. This is a new experience for many of the teens, and I understand that I am their key resource and leader.
- ▶ As a role model for the youth, my positive attitude and enthusiasm will greatly enhance the youths’ experiences at the conference. I will encourage the youth to listen to instruction, try new things and be open to new experiences.
- ▶ **I will provide supervision for my assigned youth AT ALL TIMES, including:**
 - during general and workshop sessions;
 - during meals and break times;
 - during recreational activities (offered both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings); and
 - in dormitory rooms.

- ▶ I understand that cell phones should be turned off or placed on vibrate during all conference sessions.
- ▶ I understand that overnight accommodations for youth and chaperones will consist of an on-campus dorm room and that we will need to bring an alarm clock, fan, pillows and toiletries; linens and towels are provided.
- ▶ I understand that smoking is not allowed indoors or in front of students. Smoking can occur in designated areas only.
- ▶ I understand that I must secure all oral medicines, prescription and non-prescription medicines, in their original containers, or keep them on my person at all times. (Please do not leave unsecured medicines in the dormitory.)
- ▶ I understand that directions to conference location and parking information will be emailed to me at the email address provided on the registration form.

Chaperone’s
printed name: _____

Agency name: _____

Chaperone’s signature: _____

Date signed: ____/____/____

Agency’s supervisor or director’s signature:

Date signed: ____/____/____

Michigan Teen Conference

Consent to Use of Name or Photo or Interview

Intended use Michigan Teen Conference Date: June 19 & 20, 2013

✓ **REGISTRATION:** I give my permission to the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee to use my name and information about myself and the circumstances of my relationship with the Michigan Teen Conference for registration tracking prior to and during the conference, and accounts receivable billing after the conference, as deemed appropriate by the Conference Planning Committee.

✓ **OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS:** I give my permission to the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee to use my name and information about myself and the circumstances of my relationship with Michigan Teen Conference for room assignment and monitoring at the designated residence hall at Ferris State University.

I understand that I will not be paid for the use of my name, and that I do not have the right to inspect or further approve the use to which my name, likeness, words and/or voice may be applied. I release the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee and all persons operating under its authority from any liability relating to the use of my name, likeness, words and/or voice or information about the circumstances of my relationship to the conference.

I consent to use of:

- ✓ **Any and all of the following, or**
- ✓ My name (required)
- My portrait, picture, video image, photograph or any reproduction or likeness of me
- Quotation of my remarks
- Audio recording of my voice
- Information about myself, my family and the circumstances of our relationship with the Michigan Teen Conference and its 2013 Planning Committee.

Youth's Name (please type or print legibly):	Youth's Signature:
Youth's Address:	Daytime Phone:
Agency Name or DHS County Office:	
Personal Representative for Minor Child:	
Name of Personal Representative (please type or print legibly)	
Signature of Personal Representative:	Date:

For recipients of Department of Human Service funded services, this permission expires on **12/31/13**. **This consent form is required for all youth who attend the Michigan Teen Conference for items that are identified above with a check mark.** Other items of consent are at the sole discretion of the person legally responsible for the youth. Please see box at the right for list of persons responsible to sign this consent.

Please keep one copy of this signed Agreement in the youth's file and attach one to the Michigan Teen Conference Registration Form.

Children's Services Manual FOSTER CARE – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Consent for Release of Information to Others
FOM 722-4 (page 2 of 4) • CFB 2008-009 • 10-1-08

Type of Care/Legal Status	Authorizing Party
Temporary court ward	Court/judge & parent/legal guardian
Permanent court ward	Court/judge
State ward (Act 220)	DHS monitor*
State ward (Act 296)	DHS monitor*
Voluntary foster care	Parent/legal guardian
MCI-O	DHS monitor*
OTI foster care	Sending state authority/court
Child placed out of state	Michigan authority supervising child
*For this conference only	